



TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL

Thirty-first Session

OFFICIAL RECORDS

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at 3 p.m.

NEW YORK

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President: Mr. F. H. CORNER (New Zealand).

Present:

The representatives of the following States: Australia, China, France, Liberia, New Zealand, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

The representatives of the following specialized agencies: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; World Health Organization.

Arrangements for the dispatch of a periodic visiting mission to the Trust Territories of Nauru and New Guinea in 1965 (concluded)

[Agenda item 7]

1. The PRESIDENT recalled that, at the previous meeting, the Council had agreed that the United Nations Visiting Mission to the Trust Territories of Nauru and New Guinea, 1965, would be composed of representatives to be nominated by France, Liberia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America. So far, two names had been submitted: Mr. Jacques Tiné of France and Mr. Cecil King of the United Kingdom. Since the Chairman of the 1965 Mission should represent a non-administering Power, he proposed that Mr. Tiné should be elected Chairman of the Mission.

It was so decided.

2. The PRESIDENT proposed that the Council should decide that the remaining nominations would be approved automatically when received.

It was so decided.

Adoption of the report of the Trusteeship Council to the Security Council (T/L.1081)

[Agenda item 12]

3. The PRESIDENT pointed out, in connexion with the draft report of the Trusteeship Council to the Security Council (T/L.1081), that part II, consisting of the chapter on conditions in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands as adopted at the 1241st meeting,

lacked the sections containing the observations of members of the Council representing their individual opinions only; those sections would be included when the observations were received by the Secretariat.

The draft report (T/L.1081), with the additions agreed upon, was adopted by 7 votes to none, with 1 abstention.

Adoption of the report of the Trusteeship Council to the General Assembly (T/L.1087)

[Agenda item 13]

4. Mr. SHAKHOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) observed that his delegation's views were inadequately reflected in chapter IV, section B, and in chapter VI, sections A and B, of part I of the draft report to the General Assembly (T/L.1087). He therefore requested that one or two additional sentences should be added to those three sections in order to explain the motives underlying the position taken by his delegation.

5. Mr. McCARTHY (Australia) pointed out that in those sections even less space had been devoted to the views of the United States and Australian representatives. Moreover, the Soviet Union representative's views would no doubt be included in the section of the report containing the observations of individual members. He therefore objected to the Soviet representative's proposal.

6. Mr. YATES (United States of America) observed that the Council was adopting a report, not an expression of opinion by various delegations. Moreover, no representative had presented his views more fully or forcefully than the representative of the Soviet Union, and those views would be fully reflected in the documents of the session.

7. The PRESIDENT said it was his understanding that the minority views on the three particular questions raised by the Soviet Union delegation would appear in the summary records but not in the Council's report to the Assembly unless the Council decided otherwise. The question, therefore, was whether the Council should break with past practice and include in part I of its report particular comments which were not summarized elsewhere.

8. After some discussion, the PRESIDENT proposed that the Council should authorize the President to approve the addition of one or two sentences to each of the three sections of the report referred to by the Soviet Union representative in order to reflect that delegation's views more fully.

9. Mr. Chiping H. C. KIANG (China) supported that proposal.

It was so decided.

10. In reply to a question by Mr. YATES (United States of America), the PRESIDENT confirmed that other delegations would also be accorded the privilege of briefly amplifying the statement of their views in the Council's report.

11. He pointed out that part II of the draft report, consisting of the chapters on New Guinea and Nauru as adopted at the 1239th and 1242nd meetings respectively, lacked the sections containing the observations of members of the Council representing their individual opinions only, which would be included when the observations were received by the Secretariat.

The draft report (T/L.1087), with the additions agreed upon, was adopted by 7 votes to one, with 1 abstention.

Closing of the session

12. Mr. SHAKHOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) observed that the main outcome of the Trusteeship Council's thirty-first session was a new demonstration of the Council's inability to take any decisive measures to put into effect in the Trust Territories the Declaration on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples. The reason was quite clear: the Trusteeship Council was the only organ of the United Nations where the colonial Powers were in the majority and were using their power to achieve their own ends.

13. The discussions at the present session led to five conclusions. First, the Administering Authorities, who were pursuing their own economic policies in the Trust Territories, had not only failed to do anything to promote the economic progress of the Territories, as they were required to do by the Charter, but had done everything possible to retard such progress, to subordinate the Territories to their own economic and strategic interests, and to make them economically dependent upon the metropolitan countries; and the Trusteeship Council had endorsed such a policy in its decisions. The budgets of the Trust Territories were becoming ever more dependent upon the Administering Authorities. Every effort was made to impede the creation of an indigenous industry which could increase revenue through the sale of agricultural and industrial products. Any branch of industry or agriculture which could compete with industries in the metropolitan country was stifled. Clearly, the chief aim of the colonial régimes was to secure profits for foreign monopolies, which had taken possession of the economies of the Trust Territories and were pumping out wealth by every possible means. Hence, the economies of the Trust Territories were developing in a very slow and lop-sided manner.

14. For example, the economy of New Guinea at the present time was very similar to that of Ghana prior to the latter's accession to independence. It was only after the liberation of Ghana that it had been realized that Ghana's future lay not in the expansion of cocoa cultivation but in the creation of a modern industry based on the availability of large reserves of hydro-electric power and a plentiful supply of bauxite. New Guinea's single crop—coffee—could hardly form the basis of a viable economy.

15. In Papua and New Guinea and the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, all the prerequisites existed for diversified agricultural and industrial development. However, in the latter Territory such development had been artificially retarded by the Administering Authority because, as the conclusions in the report (T/1620) of the United Nations Visiting Mission to the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, 1964, had shown, it would be detrimental to the interests of the United States companies, which were selling

their products at very high prices. The United States had thus turned the Territory into a market for the sale of its agricultural surpluses. As a result of the policy followed by the Administering Authority, the Territory's economy was stagnant and could not attain even pre-war levels. Thus, the main obligation laid upon the Administering Authorities by the United Nations Charter—namely, to facilitate and assist the economic progress of the Territories—had not been fulfilled.

16. Secondly, the Administering Authorities were making every effort to prevent the principles of the Declaration on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples from being carried into effect in their Territories. The Council, using its mechanical colonialist majority, had rejected a draft resolution submitted by the Soviet Union (T/L.1076) which reaffirmed the inalienable right of the peoples of Papua and New Guinea to independence and called upon the Administering Authority to take urgent measures to transfer all legislative powers to the House of Assembly in Papua and New Guinea and to annul the discriminatory provisions of the legislation in force. The assemblies which had been created in the Trust Territories did not have full legislative power and the laws they enacted would be subject to final confirmation by the Administering Authorities. Thus, the constitutional reforms carried out by the Administering Authorities were such that they deprived the peoples of the Trust Territories of the right to decide their own destiny. That position was, of course, in direct contradiction with the United Nations Charter and with the Declaration. There was thus a very substantial gap indeed between the statements of the Administering Authorities and their real intentions in respect to their Territories.

17. If the Administering Authorities really intended to comply with the wishes of the people of the Trust Territories they would not have rejected the Soviet Union amendments, which had confirmed the right of those peoples to self-determination and independence. The colonial Powers had opposed the inclusion of any reference to the relevant Articles of the Charter or of the Declaration but had pressed for the inclusion of references to General Assembly resolution 1541 (XV), which provided for the possibility of Non-Self-Governing Territories being associated or integrated with another independent State. It was quite clear therefore that the aim of the Administering Authorities was annexation; the Soviet Union would continue to oppose that aim, as it had done in the past.

18. Thirdly, the Trust Territories were being turned into military bases by the Administering Authorities. In Papua and New Guinea, Australia had built over two hundred airfields and landing sites, related to the system of air force bases on the mainland. The Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands was a huge military base for the United States.

19. Fourthly the Administering Authorities had turned the Trust Territories into closed areas and were attempting to conceal the true situation there. It was for that reason that the colonial Powers were afraid to include a Soviet Union representative in any of the visiting missions to the Territories administered by the United States and Australia.

20. Fifthly, the Council, where the colonial Powers were in the majority, had become an organ to protect those Powers' colonial interests in the Trust Territories. They sang each other's praises and tried to

conceal from world public opinion the real situation in the Trust Territories. However, their professions of mutual admiration could not stifle the revolutionary struggle of the colonial peoples. Those peoples had awakened to the call for independence contained in the Declaration on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples, and before long they would obtain their freedom. The Soviet delegation was proud that, being in the minority on the Council, it had raised its voice to plead the cause of the liberation of the colonial peoples.

21. Mr. McCARTHY (Australia), replying to the representative of the Soviet Union, who had claimed that the Trust Territories had become a closed area, admitted that it was true that the Soviet Union had never been represented on a visiting mission to the Trust Territories in the Pacific; but it was equally true that it had never been represented on a visiting mission to any of the eight other Territories which had been guided and assisted to independence by the Council.

22. With reference to the Soviet representative's allegation that the Australian Government was turning the Trust Territory of New Guinea into some sort of military base, it was no secret that there were some two hundred airfields there. There had been airfields in New Guinea for the past thirty years or more, and these had been the means by which the Territory had been opened up. They were not military airfields, many of them being mere landing strips for the smallest aircraft.

23. The Soviet Union had made great play about the economic conditions in the Trust Territory and had mentioned coffee in New Guinea as though this were the only industry which had been developed there. The Administering Authority, in co-operation with the indigenous people, had developed many other primary industries including copra, cocoa, timber, cattle and peanuts. Secondary industries were also being developed. Some industries were in direct competition with major Australian industries and, as far as coffee was concerned, 60 per cent of the coffee plantings was in the hands of the indigenous people; in fact, in every field of activity substantial and growing percentages were in the hands of New Guineans. The representative of the Soviet Union somehow appeared to reproach the Administering Authority for giving away to the Trust Territory and its adjoining Territory of Papua increasingly large sums of money to assist its development. As that grant had gone up so had the development of indigenous industry gone up, as well as the internal revenue deriving from that indigenous industry.

24. The Soviet Union had proposed certain amendments to the draft conclusions and recommendations submitted by the Drafting Committees and it was true that those amendments had not been accepted. If, in the opinion of the Council, the amendments had been designed to further the interests of the people of the Territories, they would not have been rejected.

25. Mr. YATES (United States of America) regretted that, in all the proceedings of the Council and all the documentation before it, the Soviet Union representative had not found a single item that he could note with approval. The accusations that the United States had been using the resources of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands for the selfish interests of foreign monopolists and had been slowing down industry

there were not borne out by the testimony given to the Council. The Council had been informed that the budget allocated to the Territory by the United States Government was continually increasing. The United States Government was making a sincere effort to develop the industries of the Territory and the report of the Visiting Mission (T/1620) indicated that activities on behalf of the indigenous people had increased. In education and health rapid progress was being made, and the economy of the Territory was being stimulated. He wondered whether many people throughout the world would agree with the Soviet Union representative's description of that representative's country as the champion of freedom and oppressed peoples.

26. Before concluding, he would like to pay a tribute to the President and the Vice-President for their conduct of the proceedings and to the members of the Secretariat for their assistance.

27. Mr. KING (United Kingdom) expressed surprise that the Soviet Union representative should be unable to believe that the population of the Trust Territories could like or trust the Administering Authorities responsible for looking after them. The Soviet Union seemed to consider administration and oppression to be synonymous. That representative's remarks might carry more weight and his right to pass judgement on the policies and actions of the Administering Authorities might be less open to challenge if the Soviet Union Government were to comply with its obligations under the Charter and give some information about the colonial territories under its administration.

28. He wished to associate himself with the tribute paid to the President and the Vice-President of the Council.

29. Mr. McCARTHY (Australia) also associated himself with that tribute. He was sorry that the Vice-President, Mr. Doise, would probably not attend future sessions of the Council and wished him every success in the future. He thanked the Secretary and other members of the Secretariat for their indispensable help.

30. Mr. Chiping H. C. KIANG (China) and Mr. EASTMAN (Liberia) expressed their appreciation to the President, the Vice-President and the members of the Secretariat.

31. Mr. SHAKHOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his remarks on the economy of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands were borne out by comments in the report of the Visiting Mission (T/1620). The Visiting Mission had described the economic situation there in such terms as "stagnation". As stated in paragraph 122 of the report, some members of the Municipal Legislature of Saipan had complained that after nineteen years of United States administration they saw little in the way of economic progress. It was also stated that the inhabitants could not purchase adequate quantities of foodstuffs because such products were imported mainly from the United States and were highly priced in relation to the local level of earnings. In connexion with the remarks made by the United Kingdom representative, he said that it was well known that the British empire was disintegrating because the peoples would tolerate it no longer.

32. On behalf of the Soviet delegation, he thanked the President for the way in which he had conducted the meetings of the Council.

33. Mr. DOISE (France) congratulated the President and thanked the Secretary of the Council and the Secretariat for their assistance.

34. The PRESIDENT expressed regret at the impending departure of Mr. Doise and thanked him for his assistance. He expressed his gratitude to the members of the Council for their kind remarks and their co-operation during the session. He was also grateful to the Under-Secretary for Trusteeship and Non-Self-

Governing Territories, the Secretary of the Council and all the members of the Secretariat. He had been impressed with the seriousness and dedication which all members of the Council, despite their different points of view, had brought to the problem of the future of the remaining Trust Territories.

35. He declared the thirty-first session of the Trusteeship Council closed.

The meeting rose at 4.45 p.m.

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